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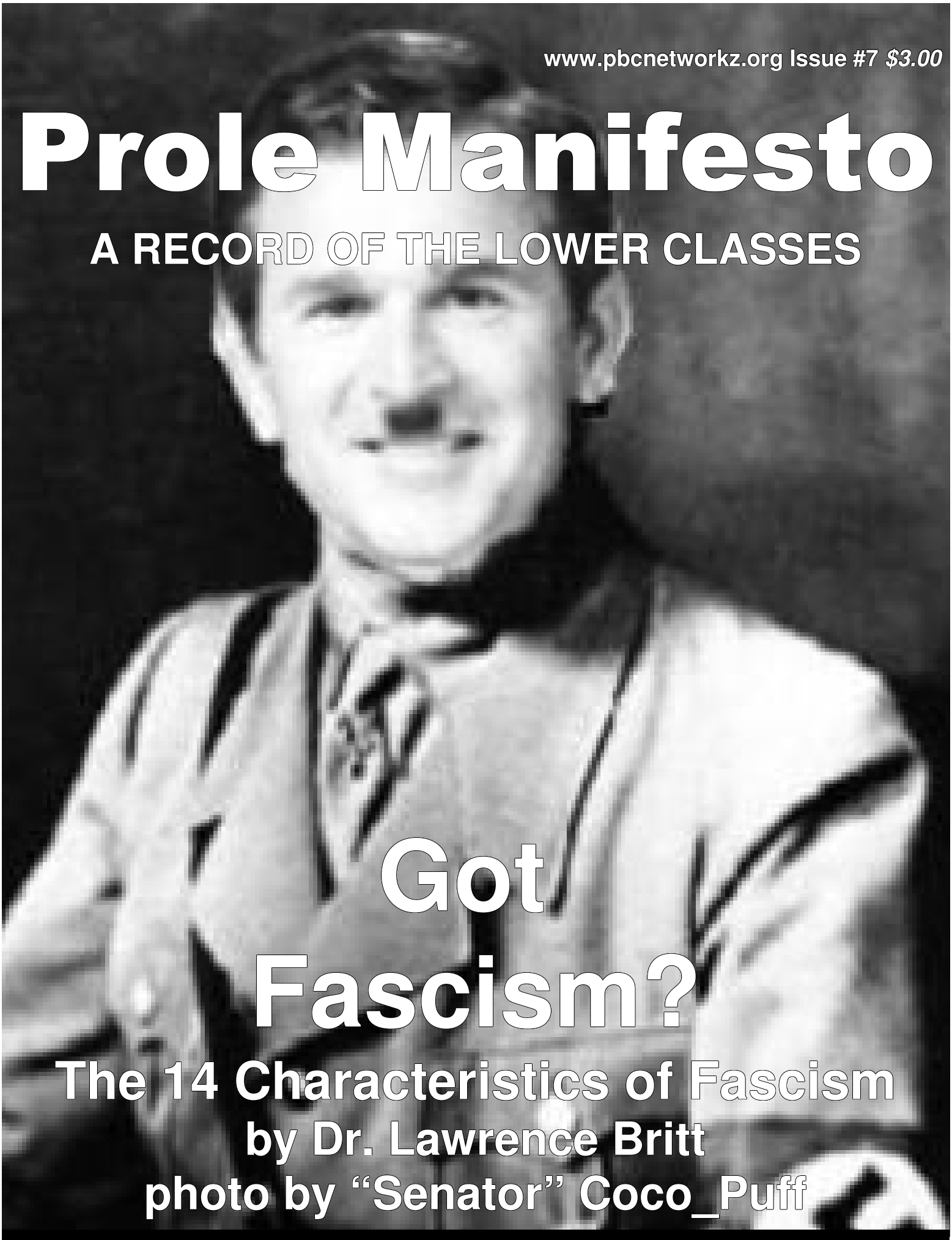
Prole Manifesto

A RECORD OF THE LOWER CLASSES



Got Fascism?

The 14 Characteristics of Fascism

by Dr. Lawrence Britt

photo by "Senator" Coco_Puff

PLUS: A BLACK WORLD POWER – BUILDING AN ANTIWAR MOVEMENT

Who We Are

The Prole Manifesto is the official publication of PBC Networks. It is a quirky, fringe, independent, publication. It is meant for expressing alternative, controversial viewpoints other than that of mainstream, glossy, standard, mainstream publications. It is a zine of insane, but intelligent rants. We choose to think of it as a definitive “fuck you” to the corporate, military-industrial prison complex and the ruling class.

Who We Aren’t

Profiteers masquerading as “anarchist activist” representatives.

The People’s Broadcasting Collective Network (PBC Networks)

The People's Broadcasting Collective Network (PBC Networks) is the parent organization of Prole Magazine. PBC Networks, an unincorporated, non-profit organization, is run entirely by volunteers. PBC Networks also maintains a website, www.pbcnetworkz.org.

Editorial Contributions

We accept thought-provoking, creative articles, manuscripts, photographs and artwork, interviews, news clippings, and so on. If you are interested in having your work published in the Prole Manifesto, contact us by e-mail or phone.

Subscriptions

Free subscriptions to Prole Manifesto are available. Please visit our website to sign up.

Advertising Questions

We depend upon advertising revenue to publish, print and distribute Prole Manifesto. If you are interested in advertising in the magazine, please call or e-mail us, and we will send you a media kit.

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The digital revolution and printing. Yes, anyone can cobble together enough material to create something the same shape and definition as a magazine, maybe even a whole book—but that doesn't mean you should.

* xx Not available in this issue. If you wish to contribute, please contact us at <fsims2002@yahoo.com>.

Visit The Peoples Broadcasting Collective Network on the World Wide Web at: http://www.pbcnetworkz.org

© Copyleft 2003 by PBC Networks. Use whatever you want, just give us credit. And yes, Prole Manifesto was once called The Dawgy Dawg Manifesto (Issues 1-5) and Conservative Anarchy (Issue 6). There really isn' t any readership, so whatever works.

Letter to Our Readers

by Dogwood E. Dawg

MY HAIR

A cheap ass haircut. I don't want to talk about it.

MY IMAGE

I'm a geek. I look like a fat nerd. Thin rimmed glasses with thick ass plastic lenses. A big ass 'beer gut' instead of chiseled abs. It looks like pregnant or something. I even have 'boobs'. I'm a nice, intelligence person. I know that I'm not the most good-looking person in the world, neither am I the most ugly.

MY RELATIONSHIPS AND EMOTIONS

I put this section in just so you wouldn't think I'm a cold, image-obsessed jerk--and so you'd know that I DO deeply value caring and closeness.

I don't have a girlfriend, yet. Hopefully, this will change. are there any decent girls out there? It's not just about sex. It's about companionship. Knowing that you're with someone attractive that wants to be with you.

MY CAREER

I'm a crappy 'college student' and a temp. It seems that there isn't much use for 'office clerks', so it is hard to find a job and get some decent pay for sitting on your ass all day. [Refer to Careers & Money, Issue #5]

WHY AN ISSUE ON WOMEN?

First of all, the media caters to women all the time. If it isn't Oprah or Martha Stewart, it's some 'woman' commentary about love and relationships from some complaining woman. You know, the "Men are Evil" syndrome. Well, I've never been one to resist getting caught up in a full-scale media barrage [i.e. Relationships, Issue #5]. So Dawgy Dawg's Manifesto is jumping on the writing-about-women bandwagon. It is about time a man wrote about women from a man's point of view.

Meanwhile, my own life seems to be mimicking the media. Girls, girls, girls everywhere (damm! what is a man to do?). I now am making an effort to shed my shyness by talking to all types of young women. And suddenly it seems like at least half of my good friends are women.

In this issue, I wish to explore to the various stages of dating. It is almost like a roller coaster ride. (1) **Flirting-Introduction**: The nervousness and expectation of success or rejection. (2) **The Ride:** The actual dating-relationship stage. Like a roller coaster there are ups, downs, and loops, you go forwards and/or backwards. (3) **The End or Breakup**: Things happen. Tie up loose ends. Become or remain friends. As you can see, This is just a generalization of the typical relationship.

Also, I will share my stories of success and failure. All the gritty details. That is, the drama, humor, suspense and sex (hopefully). The techniques I have learned and used. The secrets I have learned from my female friends.

No longer will I sit by and listen to people tell me, "be yourself" and "someday you'll meet somebody nice".
I will go into battle like a man and will emerge victorious!

About Women

That old cliche about men never understanding women is absolutely true. Vice versa. Women really don't understand men and they really don't try. Trying to figure out deepest mysteries of the female psyche is like entering the Bermuda Triangle. One you go in, you never make it out. And if you do, you are forever changed. My conclusion? There's no difference between the genders at all, except that men are stable, simple, aggressive beings while women are unstable, complex, emotional beings.

The Ideal Woman

The question has been asked, What is your idea of the perfect woman? Over the years, my attitude toward women changes due to maturity and other circumstances. Personality, intelligence, and physical attraction have always been standard in my concept of beauty. There is no such thing as a perfect body. Although, it does help if she looks good in a dress, swimsuit, or nothing at all. Pretty face. Nice legs. A body with curves. Not real skinny or too big. Real hair, long or short. Real breasts. Race is not an issue. Height is not an issue. When I touch and hold my women, I actually like to touch and hold my women.

She would have a great personality and a sense of humor. Also, she should be honest and easy to talk to.

A brain with an intelligent mind would be nice. She doesn't have to be a genius.

Does such a woman exist? Where the hell is she?

This is my idea of the perfect woman. Decent and sweet.

Governments and Socioeconomic Policies 101

A Scholarly and Down-to-Earth Examination of the "system" and "the man".

By Dogwood E. Dawg and Minister Starblazer

Everyone complains about the government and how ' the system' and ' the man' treats them. But, ask that same person exactly what type of system that they are living in, they can' t tell you.

Some claim **anarchy** is cool. Others say **socialism** and may be even **communism** should be finally embraced.

Some others say that there is nothing like ' good old' **capitalism** and **democracy**.

If you ' re just the average guy, who can' t tell the difference between **dictatorship** and **theocracy**.

Then, get ready, put on your thinking caps, fasten your seat belts and observe the no smoking sign. You are about to take (or retake) Government 101.

Wake up! You will not fall asleep on us! There may be a quiz later.

(Note: A lot of these forms of government are quite similar.)

Anarchy: lawlessness or political disorder due to the absence of governmental authority. (The ' Black Bloc' guys that tear up shit are not real anarchists. They are paid thugs.)

Capitalism: individuals or corporations own capital goods, with the price, production and distribution determined mainly by competition in the marketplace.

Communism: property communally owned, with distribution of goods and services. (The Soviet Union, Cuba and China under Mao)

Democracy: government of the people with the rights of the individual respected and protected by law and the authority of elected representatives. (The United States and Great Britain are actually Indirect Democracies. The representatives we vote into office, are supposed to vote on our behalf.)

Dictatorship: absolute power concentrated in an autocrat or clique.

Fascism: single political party dictatorship with privately owned but strictly party-controlled, means of production. (Italy and Hitler' s Germany during World War II)

Monarchy: undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by one person, often a hereditary chief of state with life tenure. (Great Britain partly, Saudi Arabia, Russia under the czars and a few others)

Oligarchy: often corrupt rule by a small unrepresented elite.

Socialism: no class structure, economic divisions or private ownership, with production controlled by the community.

Theocracy: state or group government perceived as divinely guided. (The Vatican, some Native American tribes)

Sources: Dictionary of Historical Terms, 1980; A Dictionary of Politics, 1974; Webster' s New Collegiate dictionary, ninth edition.

There are variations such as **Neo-Fascism**, **Democratic Socialism** and others. They are usually just variations on the same theme. There are ' hybrid' governments like the one in Great Britain. The is a figurehead monarchy but, the government is democratic.

Our government is a Democracy that has a Capitalist economy.

Can there be a such thing as a Democratic government with a Socialist economy? (Look at France.)

What about a Fascist government with a Capitalist economy? (The United States of America again.)

So the next time you' re talking to an anarchist or a socialist or even a neo-fascist, you' ll be more informed.

So, You Want to Start a Zine?

by Steven Svymbersky

In one way at least, zines are like every other form of media and entertainment. The worst sin they can commit is to be boring, and it is a sin committed all too frequently by small press publishers. Yes, even you could cobble together enough material to create something the same shape and definition as a magazine, maybe even a whole book—but that doesn't mean you should.

Before getting out your scissors and committing your thoughts to paper, ask yourself, "Do I have anything new to say? Do I know any new ways to say them?" These are tough questions to answer honestly. Everybody thinks their ideas are truth. So also ask yourself, "Do I have any talent? Can I write better than your average college graduate? Can I draw a straight line ... consistently? Do I have superior taste and sense of design?" When you' ve answered yes to all these questions, ask them of someone close to you—someone who will tell you the truth.

Finally, if it is agreed by many that you have the direction and talent to pull off something special, take the time to do it right. For you extraordinary few, I offer these recommendations in the hope that as you prepare to cast your lure, you' ll do it with skill and panache. The rest of you can go back to watching television.

Size

Digest and Half-Legal: 8 1/2" x 11" or 11" x 14" folded and stapled is the ideal size for zines that have no ambitions beyond impressing their friends, trading with other zines and getting their work reviewed in other zines, which, I believe, is all the majority of zines should ever hope for. This size is cheaper to mail, fits in your purse or back pocket, requires less design skill, and doubles the page count you would have if you were to put the same amount of copy on folded 11" x 17" pages or, God forbid, 8 1/2" x 11" pages that are just stapled together.

Standard: This is the most common size, 11" x 17" folded in half and stapled. At this size you are forced to make design decisions. Eight or 12 pages of straight type in columns is OK for a newsletter, but more than that and it' s too dense and boring. You need to give the pages visual appeal, balance white and dark spaces, and make use of illustrations. If you don' t you may find yourself with interesting writing that no one will bother to read. Remember, just because it' s D.I.Y. doesn' t mean it' s OK if it looks like shit.

Tabloid: Except when printed on newsprint and distributed locally as free papers that are meant to be discarded, this size is cumbersome and requires design experience and talent to keep it interesting.

Mini: Even more disposable and difficult to read than tabloids; this size can be a good way for artists or cartoonists to distribute samples of their work.

Cover

Color: I wouldn' t say it' s entirely necessary, but color goes a long way towards selling your publication, if that' s your goal. Even in the small press, many zines are springing for color Xerox covers, which, if you' re printing less than 500 is often less expensive than color offset. If your zine is digest-sized you can get two covers on each 8 1/2" x 11" page. If you' re printing more than 1000 copies using offset, each additional color can often run you less than $100. Another way to get a distinctive look is to have the cover printed with a color other than black. That won' t cost you any more at all.

Information: If you intend to sell your publication on newsstands there are rules that, when broken, will drive distributors and retailers to treat your work badly. For instance, the title should be all the way at the top so it can be seen when stacked behind other magazines. Somewhere you also should print the issue number and price. Most distributors require that UPC thing. It is often helpful to list on the cover some of the more interesting items readers will find inside, but this is usually overdone, and generally it helps readers decide they don' t need your publication as often as it sells it.

Artwork: I look for publications with great artwork on the covers, which goes with my distaste for too much information on the cover. I like to see something provocative and expertly rendered. It' s irritating to see a cover with great artwork desecrated by a bunch of words.

Design

Typefaces: There are still diehards typing their zines on typewriters, and there' s nothing wrong with that, as long as the design is clean and easy to read. Still, for the most part getting access to a computer and different fonts is as easy as going to your library or copy shop. If you have a lot of text it' s best to stick with a straightforward font such as Times, Garamond or Stone. Serif fonts are generally easier to read than Sans Serif. Titles, headlines, lists, sidebars, pull quotes, and captions are some of the places you can use the fancier, quirkier typefaces.

Artwork: No matter how good a writer you are or how brilliant the articles you've collected may be, you need to include illustrations. You can cut them from old books and magazines or spend the energy it takes to find good artists who will submit work, but I implore you to dress those pages up. Have pity on us poor Philistines who hate a publication with no pictures. Please!
If your printing is photocopy or web press, you're better off using line drawings because these processes often darken and muddy artwork.
If you use photographs be sure they're high-contrast. Having photostats made will increase the quality of photograph reproduction, but they can be expensive if you're working with a small or non-existent budget. Your average scanner may improve your reproduction slightly, or it may make it worse, while high-end computer technology will give you the polished deal, if you know how to use it.
Overall: Get yourself to the biggest newsstand you can find and examine the publications you think look good. Look at the fonts they're using, how they balance the artwork, text, and white space. Is the text in two, three, or four columns? Do they use graphic borders? Where do the ads fit into the design? Then look at the ones you think suck and ask yourself the same questions. This will give you an idea of the direction you should take and pitfalls to avoid.

Production

Editing: Once you have the articles and stories you want to print, it's important to edit them, not only for errors but for coherency and brevity. The writer of that long-winded rant may be a friend you don't wish to offend, or you may feel it's not your place to decide if someone else's writing is unclear and sophomoric, in which case you don't deserve to be an editor. You'll just be a collator. You also should proofread your copy once it's typeset and again after it's layed out. Don't let those spelling and grammar errors get past you; they have a way of deflating the impact of your work.
Layout: To do your layout the old fashioned way, you'll need some Bristol board, a ruler, Exacto knives, and rubber cement or a hand-waxer, all of which can be purchased at any art supply store. All copy and artwork are placed on the boards by hand; to do a clean job you'll need practice. Of course, desktop publishing software has all but eclipsed the need for this messy method, although some find it less fun than getting their hands dirty and putting their sweat into it. Quark XPress and Pagemaker are excellent programs that, when mastered, give you the ability to make your publication look just like the real thing.

Printing

As long as you're printing less than 200 copies, photocopying is the cheapest way to go. Some copiers can even achieve offset quality, but most can't, so be sure you know what you're getting if you leave it at the copy shop. If you're printing more than 200 copies, offset printing is not usually any more expensive than photocopying. Newsprint will be even cheaper. Offset gives you the best reproduction, but even here quality varies wildly from printer to printer. You should always ask to see samples of a printer's work.
You also should ask how the printer will bind and cut your zine, what kinds of paper stocks he or she can print on, and how soon he or she can deliver. Higher overhead usually make printer's prices in big cities much higher. Finding a printer in another state can mean big savings, but don't forget to factor in the cost of shipping. Prices per copy also drop quickly when you start printing in the thousands of copies. The more you print, the cheaper it gets.

Distribution

Review zines: It's a good idea to send your zine to as many other publications who review zines as you can afford.
Review zines and zines that are similar in theme to yours also are good places to find publications that you might want to trade with.
Trading is a great way to get zines, but be warned, a lot of zines have stopped accepting trades because they were getting too many shitty zines in return. How many times must I say it? Don't muck up the water with a half-assed, pointless publication! If you want to create something but have no talent and are lazy, join a rock band; the odds of success are much better.
Distributors: Except in rare cases, your average photocopied, 20- to 40-page, digest-sized zine has few distribution options beyond trading with other zines, putting ads in other zines, and self-distributing the zine to stores that will take them on consignment. Few magazine distributors are willing to go through the time and paperwork involved for zines if only because they usually only cost a buck or two. It's not worth it for the minuscule amount of money they make.
Exceptions are usually made for zines that have found a fascinating subject that no other magazine covers and are exceptionally well written. Once you have offset printing and attractive covers (especially with color printing), your chances of getting one of a small press distributor to take you increase greatly. Unfortunately, there are only a few of them, such as Desert Moon and Tower Records.

A few book publishers and distributors like Last Gasp carry a small selection of zines as well, and some zine editors run small distros that might have 20 or 30 titles. Large distributors may order hundreds of copies, but they will also want at least a 50 percent discount and in most cases not return your unsold copies. Instead you will receive an affidavit reporting how many copies were sold and returned. Getting payment can take from two to six months average.

For distribution resources and advice, see the "Distribution" section of this site's Zine Resource Guide.

Consignment: There are a few stores like Quimby's in Chicago and Atomic Books in Baltimore that have made it their mission to carry a wide selection of zines and comix. Occasionally they will buy them outright, but primarily they are taken on consignment, meaning they will pay you for the copies they've sold and return the ones they haven't. Usually they pay 60 percent of the cover price and return whole copies. When dealing with stores, you may find it necessary to follow up on how your zine is doing, and when you can expect payment.

Give 'Em Away: The other distribution option is to leave stacks of your zine at stores and restaurants. The advantages are that you don't have to deal with collecting money and your chances of selling advertising are greatly increased. Advertisers may figure they can at least be sure people will see your publication and, possibly, their ad. Of course, unless you have money to throw away or are able to scam free printing, giving your publication away makes it all the more incumbent to sell advertising, an occupation that's only slightly smellier than cleaning sewers.

Financing

Getting It Free: It's no coincidence that a large number of zine publishers work in copy shops or know someone who does. Especially now that most copy shops have all the desktop publishing tools you need. Employee discounts can be incredibly liberal depending on how closely the boss keeps track of things. Many office jobs also provide access to excellent photocopying machines, so you might consider temping.

Selling It: Another thing to look for when you're checking out other zines on the newsstand and in review zines is pricing. Nothing will kill your sales faster than being overpriced. Conversely, the lower your cover price, the more likely consumers will buy your wares. If you're selling copies through mail order, you only need to account for how much your zine cost you to produce and its mailing cost, but if you're selling it through distributors and stores, you have to expect to collect about half the cover price. It is extremely rare for a publication to make back even its costs solely from sales.

Advertising: Selling ads takes more time and energy than zine production, and it requires a motivated person who likes to kiss butt. Unfortunately, record labels are the only major buyers of ads in zines, which is why so many publishers print at least a few music reviews. Reviews are the primary way that zines can attract advertisers. For instance, video distributors usually place their ads in zines with film reviews and coverage.

If your publication is locally oriented, and especially if it is distributed free, you have a better chance of getting retailers, restaurants and other businesses to buy space. Of course, the greater your distribution, the more you can charge for ads. Bartering and trading for ads is always more appealing to potential advertisers, and it can be just as profitable. I've heard of some publishers who have so much restaurant credit from ads, they never have to buy a meal. *Bon appetit.*

Steven Svymbersky is the former owner of Quimby's Book Store in Chicago. This article is anti-copyright and may be distributed freely as long as this notice is attached.

The 14 Characteristics of Fascism

by Dr. Lawrence Britt

Dr. Lawrence Britt has examined the fascist regimes of Hitler (Germany), Mussolini (Italy), Franco (Spain), Suharto (Indonesia) and several Latin American regimes. Britt found 14 defining characteristics common to each:

1. **Powerful and Continuing Nationalism** - Fascist regimes tend to make constant use of patriotic mottos, slogans, symbols, songs, and other paraphernalia. Flags are seen everywhere, as are flag symbols on clothing and in public displays.

2. **Disdain for the Recognition of Human Rights** - Because of fear of enemies and the need for security, the people in fascist regimes are persuaded that human rights can be ignored in certain cases because of "need." The people tend to look the other way or even approve of torture, summary executions, assassinations, long incarcerations of prisoners, etc.

3. **Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a Unifying Cause** - The people are rallied into a unifying patriotic frenzy over the need to eliminate a perceived common threat or foe: racial , ethnic or religious minorities; liberals; communists; socialists, terrorists, etc.

4. **Supremacy of the Military** - Even when there are widespread domestic problems, the military is given a disproportionate amount of government funding, and the domestic agenda is neglected. Soldiers and military service are glamorized.

5. **Rampant Sexism** - The governments of fascist nations tend to be almost exclusively male-dominated. Under fascist regimes, traditional gender roles are made more rigid. Divorce, abortion and homosexuality are suppressed and the state is represented as the ultimate guardian of the family institution.

6. **Controlled Mass Media** - Sometimes to media is directly controlled by the government, but in other cases, the media is indirectly controlled by government regulation, or sympathetic media spokespeople and executives. Censorship, especially in war time, is very common.

7. **Obsession with National Security** - Fear is used as a motivational tool by the government over the masses.

8. **Religion and Government are Intertwined** - Governments in fascist nations tend to use the most common religion in the nation as a tool to manipulate public opinion. Religious rhetoric and terminology is common from government leaders, even when the major tenets of the religion are diametrically opposed to the government' s policies or actions.

9. **Corporate Power is Protected** - The industrial and business aristocracy of a fascist nation often are the ones who put the government leaders into power, creating a mutually beneficial business/government relationship and power elite.

10. **Labor Power is Suppressed** - Because the organizing power of labor is the only real threat to a fascist government, labor unions are either eliminated entirely, or are severely suppressed.

11. **Disdain for Intellectuals and the Arts** - Fascist nations tend to promote and tolerate open hostility to higher education, and academia. It is not uncommon for professors and other academics to be censored or even arrested. Free expression in the arts and letters is openly attacked.

12. **Obsession with Crime and Punishment** - Under fascist regimes, the police are given almost l

limitless power to enforce laws. The people are often willing to overlook police abuses and even forego civil liberties in the name of patriotism. There is often a national police force with virtually unlimited power in fascist nations.

13. **Rampant Cronyism and Corruption** - Fascist regimes almost always are governed by groups of friends and associates who appoint each other to government positions and use governmental power and authority to protect their friends from accountability. It is not uncommon in fascist regimes for national resources and even treasures to be appropriated or even outright stolen by government leaders.

14. **Fraudulent Elections** - Sometimes elections in fascist nations are a complete sham. Other times elections are manipulated by smear campaigns against or even assassination of opposition candidates, use of legislation to control voting numbers or political district boundaries, and manipulation of the media. Fascist nations also typically use their judiciaries to manipulate or control elections.

A Message to the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department, Seventh Precinct, Ward Eight

Your illegal, slick, deceptive practices will no longer be tolerated. We ask that you stop your harassment now!

We know your dealings with slum lords and your selling of narcotics. Please stop this now!

Continue your activities and the world will know. Your police chief may be helping you cover up your ass! Your mayor may be also be getting his bribes also.

Try bribing Congress and the President. This also goes for the U.S. Injustice Department, the FBI and the sissy-ass, scaredy-cat DC Council (except Councilperson Patterson, of course).

The whole world will know you all are crooked-ass cops. You are criminals hiding behind a badge and a gun.

Those who are good cops, stand up and be counted. Expose your evil co-workers. Remember your sworn oath.

-- From the citizens of Southeast Washington, DC, Ward 8

A Black World Power

by Mba Mbulu

Black People in North America need to establish a Black Nation and become a world power in the European sense of the concept. Why the European sense? Because We have been systematically abused by white people (Europeans). To end that abuse, We must begin interacting with them in ways that they understand perfectly.

What is a world power* within that context? After assessing the data, one would conclude that:

- (1) A world power is composed of intelligent people who, nonetheless, will take to an idea and bitterly defend that idea beyond the point of reason;
- (2) A world power is composed of people who are accustomed to working hard, working for something greater than monetary gain and working against the odds;
- (3) A world power is composed of people who are efficient. Efficiency is characterized by a sense of order, precision, punctuality and discipline;
- (4) A world power generates a leadership cadre that is buttressed by a substantial social and organizational infrastructure;
- (5) A world power has a leadership cadre that is dedicated to research, development, engineering and manufacturing that enables the nation to be technologically competitive and militarily threatening; and
- (6) A world power can point to a history of important military encounters and competitive successes.

Throughout the 20th century, only four legitimate world powers have existed. In Europe there is Germany. In North America, there is the United States. And from the East, there are China and Japan. "What about Russia?" you ask. Russia took on the airs of a world power, but an astute student of history would have recognized that Russia did not hold that title legitimately. That is why, even during the early 1970s, I was telling people that Russia was a paper tiger. You are also probably scratching your head about Japan. Even at this time, when it is theoretically without an army, Japan is a legitimate world power. Review the characteristics above and you will understand why.

Of concern to Black People is the absence of a Black nation on that list. What We, Black People in North America, have to do is develop the capacity to join that list. As always, We must do it on Our terms to the greatest degree possible. Why? Because while in the process of keeping up with the rest of the world, We do not want to pick up practices that are abusive or damaging to Our own people. So, where do We start.

Reading the list carefully, one recognizes that the most important element in becoming a world power is the people who make up the nation. If you observed properly, you detected that reasons number one, two and three revolve around people. If the people of a nation are not seriously into that nation, then that nation is a nation in trouble. As far as Black People in North America are concerned, the ideology that We must take to and bitterly defend is the right and necessity of Black People being independent and self-governing, wherever We may be. But the idea must be supported by actions. We must work hard promoting the concept of Black nationalism, and We must not expect any personal monetary gains as a consequence of carrying out that work. The gains We make as a People will be much more valuable than any sum of money or material compensation. And, certainly, We must recognize that We will be working against the odds, but still march forward, ever and ever more determined. Many factors can overcome overwhelming odds, but none can do it as effectively as an efficient group of workers and pioneers. That is why We must not only work hard, We must work efficiently. That means

possessing a sense of order, being precise, observing the rule of punctuality and demonstrating focus and discipline. A sense of order is the recognition that what you do is an essential part of a larger overall course of action. Being precise is doing what you are supposed to do in the manner you are supposed to do it. Being punctual is doing what you are supposed to do when you are supposed to do it. And being disciplined is maintaining the agreed upon course of action for as long as it is the agreed upon course of action.

The second most important element in becoming a world power is the leadership cadre. Please do not fail to notice that the people are more important than the leadership, but leadership is a critically vital factor nonetheless. Point number four states that a world power "generates a leadership cadre." That means that the leadership develops (1) out of concern for those who are suffering and (2) with the realization that the remedy must be applied in a way that satisfies those who are suffering. If these two factors are observed, the leadership cadre will be buttressed by a substantial social and organizational infrastructure. That social and organizational infrastructure, in summary terms, is the harnessed energy of the people. This harnessed energy will

- (1) support the leadership through thick and thin
- (2) produce the institutions, norms and practices that enable the leadership to command respect from other world leaders and
- (3) enable the nation to develop serious damage (to its enemies) capabilities.

The leadership cadre must be dedicated to research, development, engineering and manufacturing, all geared toward the elevation of the masses of Black People. Black leadership must not doubt the principle that the development of the masses of Black People is a critical first step to the development of a world order that We are comfortable with. Even though Our well-being must not be Our only goal nor Our ultimate goal, it must be Our most immediate goal. More on this in subsequent columns.

The concept of Black self-determination must be beyond debate, absolutely beyond debate. Otherwise, We will vacillate and end up supporting somebody else' s program.

*[In spite of all that has been said here, there is another bottom line that should not be overlooked: No single country could become a "world power" without the collaboration of other countries. Among these collaborating countries are what I call "chump countries," countries that, for whatever reason(s), fail to insist on their rights and fight against all odds when challenged by the world' s bullies. In the 1790s Haiti proved that the world powers can not win if the country they attack will not surrender. Forty years ago, Viet Nam reminded the world of that fact. Some countries are bound to have larger and better equipped armies, but without the assistance of collaborating countries, no country could develop the ability to impose its will on the rest of the world.]

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Building an Antiwar Movement

by Laurence Cox

It's easy to feel despair, isolation and frustration at what's presented to us as an inevitable drive into an indefinitely long war. The key ingredients of success in building a successful anti-war movement are confidence in ordinary people's potential, solidarity with each other and a long-term view: we have not been able to prevent the first bombs falling, but over time we can reverse the dynamic and stop the war.

Historical experience - desertion and mutinies at the end of World War I, the international movement against the war in Vietnam, the anti-nuclear movement of the 1980s - shows that movements can stop or divert even large-scale processes of militarization, but only when large numbers of ordinary people are actively involved. The experience of active involvement in turn gives people more confidence in their own capacities to think and act for themselves, which is an important element in building a better world. This means:

1. Making space for a diversity of voices within the movement. To insist on expressing only the most radical line will isolate activists at the very time when many ordinary people are looking for a way out. To insist on being as "mainstream" as possible will stop the movement developing and restrict participation to a small section of the population. So a good "platform" will include as wide a range of anti-war voices as possible. This enables the movement to speak to different people and is part of learning from each other.

2. Making sure that the movement emphasizes activities which everyone can take part in. It's important to remember that most actions don't have an immediate chance of stopping the war; but if they give people a chance to learn how to become active, to gain confidence and to develop their own understanding, they can help build a movement that does have a chance.

3. Taking care that the movement isn't run by a handful of experienced people to the exclusion of everyone else. While activists may have particular skills, their job is to share them and pass them on. Stopping this war is likely to be a long campaign, so we will need to develop everyone's ability to take part at every level.

In terms of strategy, it's important for people to mobilize within their own everyday contexts, both to root the movement in the real world and to change the existing social relationships that ultimately give rise to war. While the movement will also need to reach out into public space and develop a "political" face, this shouldn't become separate from the rest of the movement. The point is for ordinary people to politicize themselves, not to develop a separate political elite. In practice, what we need to do is:

1. Start by talking to other people at work, in the shops, at home, on the bus, in school, online - anywhere where people already know us. This may seem challenging at times, but it's becoming clear that far more people are uneasy about the prospect of war than the media leads us to think. By opening up this new space for communication, we undermine some of the usual power relationships and creating space for new kinds of solidarity and friendship.

2. Offer people immediate, practical things to do: signing something, going on a march, coming to a meeting, putting up posters, circulating a letter. We're trying to "push people's boundaries" enough so that they feel they are becoming active, but not so much that they see activism as beyond their reach.

3. Encourage people to take the next step, and support them if they don't yet know how: ask them to speak at meetings or write leaflets, help them to put press releases or websites together, show them how to organize a public meeting or a march. Be careful of patronizing people: the trick is to be confident that they can do whatever they set their mind to, and make sure they have the backup they need to do it. The second time somebody does something, we should leave them to it!

4. Educate ourselves: this movement is likely to last a long time, and most of us are going to have to find out more about all kinds of issues, from foreign policy to Islam to international law.

This also gives us a chance to build connections by inviting speakers from other groups, from local Muslim associations to college lecturers to development organizations.

5. Make links: although (almost) anyone who opposes war should be welcomed, we should work and argue for making links to other issues, most importantly foreign policy, "development" and world economics, racism and intolerance, and civil liberties. To stop the war and leave the system ready for another war tomorrow is not enough.

6. Try to spread the movement, rather than build little empires. Encourage people to take independent action (and support them when they do); work to create networks between different groups and initiatives, without imposing a single "line" that everyone has to follow.

This war may run for years in various forms, and a movement that can stop it will need to include many different social groups. So there' s space for all sorts of different action, and it' s important to respect this, because it' s how new people will both find their way to the movement and how other people can contribute something we might not have thought of. Different actions also have different purposes (though some overlap):

- Convincing ordinary people: meetings, posters, demos, street theater, leaflets, videos, etc.
- Building the movement: newsletters, mailing lists, teach-ins, websites, gatherings, benefit gigs, etc.
- "Stopping the machine in its tracks": 5-minute strikes for peace, occupations, peace observers, supporting deserters, blockades, etc.
- Influencing governments or the media: petitions, vigils, press releases, photo opportunities, etc.

We learn as movements, not just as individuals, and the dialogue between us is important. There is no book that can tell us authoritatively how we are going to stop this war; it' s something we will work out together in practice. We can certainly learn from other movements and past history (several campaigns have produced excellent "how-to" guides that are a real goldmine of ideas), but at the end of the day none of us knows exactly what will work, and we won' t know until we' ve managed to stop the war (if then!) In the process, though, we are also learning something else of immense value: how to treat each other as equals, how to cooperate and communicate without bosses and laws, and how to build the kind of world that we want to live in.

Laurence Cox (Dublin) has been involved in social movements for nearly 20 years, including opposing the Falklands War, the nuclear arms race and the second Gulf War. He' s an academic specialist in social movements research, currently studying working-class community politics in Ireland.

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The Fascist New World Order

by Dogwood E. Dogg

This article originally appeared in the previous issues of this zine (Dawgy Dawg Manifesto Zine, Spring/Summer 1999). So the warning has been given long before September 11, 2001. Now after two wars, and a whole new “Homeland Security” agency this information is even more important and updated.

Is that a black helicopter I see? Why are those troops in my neighborhood? Is it the National Guard? Is it the UN Peacekeepers? Sounds unreal. It shouldn' t. The New World Order is coming. No more sovereign nations. No more patriotism. No more sense of individuality whatsoever. Ever wonder why it is against the law to pray or bring a bible into a public school, yet it is okay to bring a gun?

Since September 11, 2001, our free, democratic lifestyle has changed drastically. The whole world is quickly becoming a totalitarian police state like Nazi Germany, or the Soviet Union, void of civil liberties and personal freedom for all people. This ' one world government' will be a cashless feudal system with no middle class, where the powerful and rich ruling class are elevated to nobility while the rest of humanity is reduced to servitude!

Credit Cards, Debit Cards, Cash Cards, Social Security Numbers (SSN), Electronic Benefit Transactions (EBT), Store Inventory ID Tags and Bar Codes. What do they all have in common? They are so-called ' marks of the beast' (666)! People, I know this sounds crazy, but realize that the conspiracy nuts are more right than wrong. Don' t forget about the Total Information Awareness (TIA) now called (Terrorist Information Awareness (TIA). Entire databases are being compiled on everyone and it is being shared between governments and corporations.

Does this sound familiar?

"And causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive the mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name: For it is the number of a man: and his number is six hundred threescore and six (666)" Revelations (13:15-18) KJV

What is already happening are the conditions for fascism.

Fascism is a political philosophy movement, or regime that exalts nation (and often race, sex, class). It consists of a centralized government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation and forcible suppression of opposition.

(1) Create a national "crisis" (emergency) in America (The Terrorist Attack on the World Trade Center, in New York City September 11, 2001 and the Anthrax attacks) so they can declare martial law, abolish the US Constitution (USA Patriot Act I and II) and openly establish their dictatorship!
The Y2K (Year 2000) crisis, famine, depression, war, terrorist attack or some other serious event(s) to make people give up their freedoms. Powerful and continuing “patriotism” for the “homeland'. Identification of Enemies/Scapegoats as a unifying cause. Obsession with national security. Supremacy of the military.

(2) Bring America to financial collapse. This is why the national debt is so high! Also, don' t let Wall Street fool you. Prosperity can only last so long. What goes up must come crashing down. Severe economic and social regimentation.

(3) Take over all private businesses. Outlaw ownership of property. The planned global economic system is called New International Economic Order (NIEO). It spells government seizure of private business. Corporate power is protected. Labor power is suppressed.

(4) Ban all firearms (disarm all Americans). Of course "registered guns" will be the easiest to track and confiscate. This is is a very touchy issue because of recent events.

(5) Ban all money and check-writing (make them obsolete), plus garner your assets!

(6) Establish a global cashless monetary dictatorship. Dubbed "the beast," the 3-story supercomputer in Brussels, Belgium can keep track of every person in the world! People are tied to this computer by social security number, driver' s license, passport number, credit/ATM card numbers, bank accounts, etc. This is just leading up to the previous explained above.

These are essentially the same conditions that existed during 1930' s Germany. On February 27, 1933, the Nazis, staged the Reichstag Fire, and on February 28, Adolf Hitler suspended basic constitutional rights, and accused the Polish Communists of sabotage. On March 23, the German Parliament (Reichstag) passed legislation installing Hitler' s sovereign dictatorship. The George W. Bush administration is obviously reading from the Hitler playbook.

Under the cover of the phrases "critical infrastructure protection", “homeland security” "biochemical threat", "nuclear holocaust", "rioting" and "cyberterrorism", the government has set up a rapid deployment force designed to provide order in American cities.

The two politically convenient facts about terrorist attacks are these: (1) The timing is not specific; (2) the target is not specific. This keeps panic from occurring and a heightened sense of awareness.

Plans to impose martial law have been in effect since 1992. The training is the same, so the public will not alarmed. The Army has created special emergency response divisions made up of National Guard Units and Reserve units. But the plans seem to have begun with an Executive Order signed by President Clinton in July 1996, which set up the Presidential Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection (PCCIP). This is just one of a series of executive orders that go back over three decades are in reverse, ready to be announced and enforced by the President. Actually, these same orders can be enacted by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) without the President' s involvement.

They have abolished the US Constitution and openly established their dictatorship through fraudent elections! WAKE UP! GET PREPARED! Know your rights—NOW! Get out in the streets and exercise your rights! Organize, protest, teach!

My Country, the World

by Howard Zinn

Howard Zinn is an historian and author of **A People' s History of the United States**

Our government has declared a military victory in Iraq. As a patriot, I will not celebrate. I will mourn the dead -- the American GIs, and also the Iraqi dead, of which there have been many, many more.

I will mourn the Iraqi children, not just those who are dead, but those who have been blinded, crippled, disfigured, or traumatized, like the bombed children of Afghanistan who, as reported by American visitors, lost their power of speech. The American media has not given us a full picture of the human suffering caused by our bombing; for that, we need to read the foreign press.

We will get precise figures for the American dead, but not for the Iraqis. Recall Colin Powell after the first Gulf War, when he reported the "small" number of U.S. dead, and when asked about the Iraqi dead, Powell replied: "That is really not a matter I am terribly interested in."

As a patriot, contemplating the dead GIs, should I comfort myself (as, understandably, their families do) with the thought: "They died for their country." If so, I would be lying to myself. Those who die in this war will not die for their country. They will die for their government. They will die for Bush and Cheney and Rumsfeld. And yes, they will die for the greed of the oil cartels, for the expansion of the American empire, for the political ambitions of the President. They will die to cover up the theft of the nation' s wealth to pay for the machines of death.

The distinction between dying for our country and dying for your government is crucial in understanding what I believe to be the definition of patriotism in a democracy.

According to the Declaration of Independence -- the fundamental document of democracy -- governments are artificial creations, established by the people, "deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed", and charged by the people to ensure the equal right of all to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Furthermore, as the Declaration says, "whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it."

When a government recklessly expends the lives of its young for crass motives of profit and power, always claiming that its motives are pure and moral ("Operation Just Cause" was the invasion of Panama and "Operation Iraqi Freedom" in the present instance) it is violating its promise to the country. It is the country that is primary -- the people, the ideals of the sanctity of human life and the promotion of liberty. War is almost always a breaking of those promises (although one might find rare instances of true self defense). It does not enable the pursuit of happiness, but brings despair and grief.

With the war in Iraq won, shall we revel in American military power and, against the history of modern empires, insist that the American empire will be beneficent?

The American record does not justify confidence in its boast that it will bring democracy to Iraq. Should Americans welcome the expansion of the nation' s power, with the anger this has generated among so many people in the world? Should we welcome the huge growth of the military budget at the expense of health, education, the needs of children, one-fifth of whom grow up in poverty?

I suggest that a patriotic American who cares for his country might act on behalf of a different vision. Instead of being feared for our military prowess, we should want to be respected for our dedication to human rights.

Should we not begin to redefine patriotism? We need to expand it beyond that narrow nationalism which has caused so much death and suffering. If national boundaries should not be obstacles to trade -- we call it globalization -- should they also not be obstacles to compassion and generosity?

Should we not begin to consider all children, everywhere, as our own? In that case, war, which in our time is always an assault on children, would be unacceptable as a solution to the problems of the world. Human ingenuity would have to search for other ways.

Tom Paine used the word "patriot" to describe the rebels resisting imperial rule. He also enlarged the idea of patriotism when he said: "My country is the world. My countrymen are mankind."

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Deliberate Dumbing Down - Making Johnny Stupid

By Alan Stang
Etherzone.com

Last week, we began to look at a book entitled the deliberate dumbing down of america (Ravenna, Ohio, The Conscience Press, 2000) by educator Charlotte Thomson Iserbyt. The title has no capital letters, to dramatize the deliberate dumbing down of children in the nation' s government (public) schools. Again, the thing that makes Mrs. Iserbyt' s book so stupendous was her ability to plow through a couple of mountains of garbage extruded by the (mis)educators who are deliberately doing this, so you don' t need to guess what they mean. You can see for yourself.

This week, let' s look at some things they are doing. Please remember that when I use the word "they," I am not necessarily talking about the teachers. Yes, many teachers in the government (public) schools are part of the problem, but many are not. The ones who are not do try to protect the children, even to educate them, but those good teachers do not run the schools and must do as they are told. No, we are talking about the administrators, the people who do run the schools, the academics who come up with the educational theories, the people in the state and federal departments of education.

For instance, in Conditioned Reflex Therapy, Andrew Salte writes this: "We are meat in which habits have taken up residence. We are a result of the way other people have acted to us. . . . Where there is a conditioned reflex, there is no will. Our ' will power' is dependent on our previously learned reflexes." (P. 49) N.B.: All pagination is taken from Mrs. Iserbyt' s book.

This is what the (mis)educators think of your children. Your children are "meat," lumps of quivering protoplasm in a petri dish, without soul, without will, without individuality, without choice. Would you bother trying to "educate" protoplasm in a dish? No, you would condition it, you would create reflexes that bypass the brain.

Another book Mrs. Iserbyt suffered through is William E. Martin' s Rediscovering the Mind of the Child: "A science of behavior emphasizes the importance of environmental

manipulation and scheduling and thus the mechanization and routinization of experience. Similarly, it stresses performance in the individual. Doing something, doing it efficiently, doing it automatically - these are the goals. It is the mechanization of man .... The result is the triumph of technology: a push button world with well-trained button-pushers." (P. 120)

The "mechanization of man!" Mechanical children who respond when buttons are pushed! Most parents probably still believe that their children go to school to learn "subjects." No, in the government (public) schools today, what you may think of as learning is mere window-dressing, is coincidental, is a cover for the (mis)educationists' real purpose. In his 1981 book, All Our Children Learning, Professor Benjamin Bloom wrote, "The purpose of education and the schools is to change the thoughts, feelings and actions of students." (P. 160)

Notice, from their own mouths: Academic learning is not the purpose of education and the schools. Obviously, Bloom is unhappy with the thoughts, feelings and actions children learn at home. According to Thomas A. Kelly, Ph.D., in The Effective School Report, "The brain should be used for processing, not storage." (Loc. Cit.) If your brain isn't used for storage, you don't and can't know anything. You have no reservoir of learning. You are an automaton, trained, not educated, to respond to buttons.

Your Intrepid Correspondent was talking in a high school to a class of seniors about the career of Adolf Hitler, but there was a problem. I wasn't discussing Hitler the way I was supposed to. For instance, I was explaining that Hitler was of course a far leftist, a Socialist, a National Socialist, that he believed in total government and therefore that he and the Communists were natural allies, an affinity that found expression in the Hitler-Stalin Non-Aggression Pact.

The immensely curious and fascinating thing about the confrontation was that these seniors could not understand what I was saying, not even enough to disagree. They never did figure out whether I was a good guy or not. They responded not to the ideas I was voicing but to the names I spoke. Whenever I mentioned Hitler, they booed. When I mentioned FDR, they applauded. I realized that the names were buttons. They had been trained, not educated, to respond when those buttons were pushed.

Much of this training derives from Harvard Professor B.F. Skinner, one of the (dead) gods of the (mis)educationists. Skinner trained pigeons for the military during World War II, and, "I could make a pigeon a high achiever by reinforcing it on a proper schedule." (P. A-143) Skinner thought your child was nothing more than a pigeon. "For the purpose of analyzing behavior, we have to assume man is a machine." (Loc. Cit.) "We want him [the student-Iserbyt] to come under the control of his environment rather than on verbal directions given by members of his family." (Loc. Cit.)

How would all this play out in math, for instance? In December, 1928, O.A. Nelson, then a teacher of math, was invited to attend a meeting. John Dewey, founder of "progressive education" was there. Dewey of course was a Stalinist, as were the other leading "educators" present. Nelson tells us that he objected to the way they wanted to teach math. The man who had invited him responded: "Nelson, wake up! That is what we want. . . . a math that the pupils cannot apply to life situations when they get out of school!" Nelson comments: "That math was not introduced until much later, as those present thought it was too radical a change. . . . The radical change was introduced in 1952. . . . So, if pupils come out of high school now, not knowing any math, don't blame them. The results are supposed to be worthless." (Pp. 14-15)

The result is that The New York Times of August 31, 1986 reported as follows on a study conducted by the Educational Testing Service and the National Assessment of Educational Progress: ". . . In testing basic skills at various levels, the study found that one in three young adults with a college degree from a two- or four-year school failed to answer this question correctly: If one purchased a sandwich for $1.90, a bowl of soup for 60 cents, and gave the cashier $3, how much change should he receive? . . . (P. 238) Could you believe that a full one-third of college graduates can't figure the answer?

Here's just one example of what we're talking about. One of my sons and I were next in line at a checkout counter in a huge chain drugstore. When your obedient servant worked a cash register a century ago, it showed the purchase price and we had to figure out the change. Today, it shows the cashier how much change to give. But it happened that the victimized government (public) high school teenager working the register accidentally hit the wrong button, so the amount of change she was supposed to hand the man in front of us disappeared from the screen. The poor child stared at the cash in her hand that the man had given her and stared at the numberless screen, in a state of helpless terror and frustration. Would she be chastised? Would she be fired? She had no idea how to figure the change. The man ahead of us didn't notice this little, heartrending crisis; he was looking around, oblivious, waiting for the cashier to put something in his hand, so there was a moment of respite

before the approaching doom. But soon he would turn to find out what was happening and the sword would fall.

The son who was with me is today a handsome, hulking brute under whom the ground shakes when he walks. Some teenage females even think he' s a "hunk." At the time, he was a pipsqueak, whose head barely cleared the top of the counter. At this crucial point in the melodrama, the pipsqueak piped up: "Thirty eight cents."

Wondering, the benighted cashier gave the man ahead of us $.38 and held her breath. He looked at the coins, nodded and left. The pipsqueak had been right! Thirty-eight cents was the right amount! The cashier totaled our purchase, and we paid and walked away. As we did so, she stared at my son in continuing wonderment. How could this pipsqueak, barely tall enough to clear the counter, know the right change? Was he a dwarf? An elf? A disciple of Yoda in possession of occult knowledge? No, he was simply a normal child educated at home, who had never seen the inside of a "school." The country today is full of academically challenged victims such as that cashier, and remember that she has been crippled by design.

What about reading? Thomas Sticht, Ph.D., says as follows (paraphrased from the Washington Post): "Ending discrimination and changing values are probably more important than reading in moving low income families into the middle class. . . ." How would you get into the middle class if you can' t read?

Always keep in mind that when George W. Bush talks about leaving no child behind, he is not talking about changing all this. He is talking about spending a lot more money to finance a lot more of it.

Again, to order Mrs. Iserbyt' s staggering book, send $39.95 (Maine residents add 5.5% tax=$2.19) plus $6.00 shipping and handling to 3D Research Co., 1062 Washington St., Bath, ME 04530. And be with your Intrepid Correspondent next week for more.

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SECURING THE HOMELAND: Saving free America

By Sam Smith, The Progressive Review

The dystopia described in 1984 is so overwhelming that one almost forgets that most residents of Oceania don' t live there. Orwell gives the breakdown:

"Below Big Brother comes the Inner Party, its numbers limited to six millions, or something less than two percent of the population of Oceania. Below the Inner Party comes the Outer Party, which, if the Inner Party is described as the brain of the State, may be justly likened to the hands. Below that come the dumb masses whom we habitually refer to as ' the proles,' numbering perhaps eighty-five percent of the population."

It is amongst the latter that Winston Smith and Julia find refuge for their trysts, away from the cameras (although not the microphones). The proles are, for the most part, not worth the Party' s trouble:

"Heavy physical work, the care of home and children, petty quarrels with neighbors, films, football, beer, and above all, gambling filled up the horizon of their minds. To keep them in control was not difficult. A few agents of the Thought Police moved always among them spreading false

rumors and marking down and eliminating the few individuals were judged capable of becoming dangerous; but no attempt was made to indoctrinate them with the ideology of the Party . . . From the proletarians nothing is to be feared. Left to themselves, they will continue from generation to generation and from century to century, working, breeding, and dying, not only without any impulse to rebel, but without the power of grasping that the world could be other than it is . . . "

Orwell' s division of labor and power was almost precisely replicated in East Germany decades later, where about one percent belonged to the General Secretary of the Communist Party, with another 13% being far less powerful party members.

Huxley' s Brave New World, though more encompassing, still offered alternatives such as Iceland and the savage reservations in New Mexico:

"Leaning forward, the Warden tapped the table with his forefinger. ' You ask me how many people live in the Reservation. And I reply' -triumphantly - ' I reply that we do not know. We can only guess.' . . .

about sixty thousand Indians and half-breeds . . . absolute savages . . . our inspectors occasionally visit . . . otherwise, no communication whatever with the civilized world . . . still preserve their repulsive habits and customs . . . marriage, if you know what that is, my dear young lady; families . . . no conditioning . . . monstrous superstitions . . . Christianity and totemism and ancestor worship . . . extinct languages, such as Zuñi and Spanish and Athapascan . . . pumas, porcupines and other ferocious animals . . . infectious diseases . . . priests . . . venomous lizards . . . ' "

In short, what we would call life.

As we move towards - and even surpass - the fictional bad dreams of Huxley and Orwell, it is helpful to remember that these nightmares were actually the curse of the elites, those who lived and died in the quaint primitive manner of humans, rather than as part of the living dead at the zenith of illusionary power.

This bifurcation of society into a weak, struggling, but sane mass and a manic depressive elite that is alternately vicious and afraid, unlimited and imprisoned, mimics in some ways the time of moated castles. But it also foreshadows what we find today - an elite willing, on the one hand, to occupy any corner of the world and, on the other, terrified of a few young men with box cutters.

The cost of this psychotic conflict is enormous, even on the innocent and unchosen. But ultimately the heaviest burden is on those in America' s inner and outer parties.

An important part of the split is geographic. The proles and savages were mostly removed from the centers of power, much as in our world. In fact ' globalization,' rather than making us "one world," has actually widened the gap between the powerful and the weak. The former mostly live and work in the economic and political capitals, enjoying what might be called capitalism were not the term already taken. The rest of the world is separated from the action. This phenomenon even occurs in conquered lands: the Iraq war was ' over' when we thought we had captured Baghdad, the devil take the rest of the country. Similarly, we have yet to capture Afghanistan, but under today' s rules, holding Kabul is close enough.

Such a distortion was noticed more than a decade ago by Jacque Attali, the French writer and advisor to Francois Mitterand, who said:

"We have to build a word which would be ' New York-Hollywoodization' because we are not Americanized in the sense that we are not going to be closer to St. Louis, Mo., or some place else. These countries are far from us and we are far from them. They are less in advance, less influencing than New York and Hollywood."

Here is a world in which a sophisticated Parisian speaks of St. Louis - but not Hollywood or Manhattan - as a foreign country. It is the world of what semiotician Marshall Blonsky called International Man. In 1994 I described him this way:

"International man - and he is mainly just that - is unlocalized. He wears a somewhat Italian suit, perhaps a vaguely British regimental tie, a faintly French shirt and shoes, says international man Furio Columbo, president of Fiat USA, ' with an element of remembering New England boats and walking on the beach.' As Blonsky puts it, ' You self-consciously splice genres, attitudes, styles.'

"International man thrives in Washington. At the moment you call, though, he may well be in Tokyo, Bonn or London sharing with colleagues who are nominally Japanese, German or British their common heritage in the land of the perpetually mobile.

"It is this unnamed country of international law, trade and finance, with its anthem to "global competition in the first half of the 21st century," that is increasingly providing the substance and the style to our politics. It is their dual citizenship in America and in the Great Global Glob that characterizes the most powerful among us, now more than ever including even our own political leaders.

"International man dreams of things like NAFTA and GATT and then gets them passed. And he knows that he, as a corporate executive or licensed professional, will pass quickly through Mexican customs in his somewhat Italian suit and shoes with a hint of a New England beach because the agreement he helped to draft and pass has declared him entitled to such consideration. The union worker, the tourist from St. Louis, are, under the new world order, from far countries and so it will take awhile longer. This then is the Clinton foreign policy: it is the policy of International Man, a policy that brings Mexico City ever nearer and starts to make St. Louis a stranger in its own land."

In the wake of September 11, this trend has become even more prominent. Our country' s policies and budgets have been strongly skewed in the interest of protecting New York and Washington (and the natural resources that support their activities). There has not been much mention of a terrorist threat toSt Louis in the national media at least, although the perversity of pride has undoubtedly led its own leaders to claim so. After all, St. Louis is in the countryside that is filled with persons who, if left to themselves, will, in the words of Orwell, "continue from generation to generation and from century to century, working, breeding, and dying, not only without any impulse to rebel, but without the power of grasping that the world could be other than it is."

This is not to say that St. Louis can' t be a target, only that it is far from what the war on terrorism is really about, which is to defend those things, people, and places that the elite hold most dear starting with themselves. Nor is it to say that such places can be immune from the sort of economic or

environmental catastrophe of which the Bush regime is fully capable. But unlike our frightened leaders, the residents of most of the country simply live with the risk. There is no government money for their bunkers.

Strange as it may seem, however, it is in the dismal dichotomy between countryside and the political and economic capitals that the hope for saving America' s soul resides. The geographical and conceptual egocentrism of those who have made this mess leaves vast acres of our land still free in which to nurture hopes, dreams, and perhaps even to foster the eventual eviction of those who have done us such wrong.

Eric Paul Gros-Dubois of Southern Methodist University has described Orwell' s underclass this way:

"The Proles were the poorest of the groups, but in most regards were the most cheerful and optimistic. The Proles were also the freest of all the groups. Proles could do as they pleased. They could come and go, and talk openly about whatever they felt like without having to worry about the Thought Police. . .

"[Orwell] also concluded that the hope for the future was contained within this group. At several points in the book, Winston, the hero, made a point of mentioning that the Proles were the hope for the future and the only ones who could end Big Brother' s tyranny, since they were the only group still allowed to have feelings and opinions. Orwell, through Winston, said that the lower classes were the only ones capable of creating change, since they were the only ones who have the vision to do so."

"Orwell also gave a warning to the lower classes. He said that the government controlled them through such devices as the lottery, the spreading of rumors, and the elimination of the troublemakers from amongst them. . . Orwell, through his portrayal, seemed to be warning the lower classes that they were being controlled, and that they should fight to be rid of their leaders who were oppressing them, rather than feeling a form of ' fake patriotism' toward them, which allowed the cycle to continue."

As a Washington native I find myself thinking of part of my city as occupied, and part still free, part still human. I roughly define the free portion as that having buildings one can enter without having to prove in some physical way that you are not a terrorist. While the occupied city encompasses much of downtown Washington, the consumptive fear of those in power is so concentrated on their own safety that they leave the better part of us alone. In fact, since September 11 both local crime and fires have increased for there just isn' t enough time to look after the rest of us anymore.

I'm not so naïve as to think that the government couldn' t at any moment expand its interests. After all, I live six blocks from the Capitol and on July 4, as I walked past the dome on the way to see the fireworks celebrating our independence, police stood by - some parading firearms and scowling at their fellow Americans - to prevent any citizen from getting too close to their own Capitol. And, as the Observer of London has noted, in some ways even the English countryside is even more Orwellian than when Orwell wrote of it for there are now innumerable cameras as well as microphones.

Still, upon leaving Washington I' m quickly struck by the question: where did the war on terror go? The further I get from this alleged democratic apex the more I feel as if I' m in a democracy again.

One good reason for this is because I am. And why not? As the ACLU reported recently, "More than 130 communities, encompassing more than 16 million people in 26 states, have passed resolutions, some of which contain strong legal language directing local police to, among other things, refrain from engaging in racial profiling, enforcing immigration laws or participating in federal investigations that violate civil liberties. Among the communities that have adopted resolutions are traditionally conservative locales, such as Oklahoma City, and three states: Alaska, Hawaii and Vermont."

There is nothing new in this. Almost all great changes in American politics and culture have had their roots either in the countryside or among minorities within the major cities. From the religious ' great awakenings' to the abolitionist movement, to the labor movement, to populism, to the 1960s and civil rights, America has been repeatedly moved by viral politics rather than by the direct procedures outlined in great man theories of change promulgated by the elite and its media.

Successfully confronting the Bush disaster will require far more than attempting to serially blockade its serial evils, necessary as this is. There must also be a guerilla democracy that defends, fosters, and celebrates our better selves - not only to provide an alternative but to create physical space for decent Americans to enjoy their lives while waiting for things to get better. It may, after all, take the rest of their lifetimes. We must not only condemn the worst, but offer witness for the better. And create places to live it.

A case in point is the media. There has been much justified talk of late about the larcenous redistribution of the airwaves by the FCC. The complaints and supporting activism are righteous and necessary. But in he end, given the times in which we live, we will probably lose anyway. Further, the energy devoted to the fight has obscured an essential point: good has rarely come from the major media whatever its rules. Essential to successful change is its own news.

From the North Star of Frederick Douglass to the 2,000 labor newspapers published in this country at one time or another, to the hundreds of underground papers of the 1960s to the multiple rebellions of

the multiple rebellions of the Internet, those who have caused real change have made their own media.

Imagine if the nation's unions decided to revive the tradition of a labor press. Or if a conscious effort was made to create alternative local and statewide websites that were not merely rhetorical and missionary but actually served as hard news sources. What if a free media sprung up much like the underground press of the 1960s?

Another case in point is politics. At present the Green Party seems exceedingly concerned with whom it will run for president, if anyone. This is a time-consuming, agenda-skewing, image-monopolizing business. And in the end, running for president under grossly unfair national campaign rules offers about as much hope as trying to teach the FCC democracy or ethics.

But what if the Green Party declared itself the party of the countryside, of free America, and set its sights on organizing not just the survival, resistance, and rebellion of the unoccupied homeland, but its revival, its discovery of self-reliance, and its energetic practice of democracy and decency? There is a wealth of opportunity. For example, in 15 states more than half the state legislative seats are presently won without a contest.

There is a logic to the Greens becoming the party of free America. After all Greens are the party most in the best American tradition of decentralization, democracy, and cooperative communities. And they have ample precedent in the Populist Party which took on robber barons of startling similarity to those now served by the Bush regime.

These are but two examples of the sort of issues that activists could be thinking much about as they first create an ever clearer divide between occupied, proto-fascist America and free, democratic America and then help the latter spread like a virus until the former is so weak or so shamed that it changes its ways and rejoins the homeland it now falsely claims to defend.

Rome, AD ... Rome, DC

John Freedland

The word of the hour is empire. As the United States marches to war, no other label quite seems to capture the scope of American power or the scale of its ambition. "Sole superpower" is accurate enough, but seems oddly modest. "Hyperpower" may appeal to the French; "hegemon" is favored by academics. But empire is the big one, the gorilla of geopolitical designations -- and suddenly the US is bearing its name.

Of course, enemies of the US have shaken their fist at its "imperialism" for decades: they are doing it again now, as Washington wages a global "war against terror" and braces itself for a campaign aimed at "regime change" in a foreign, sovereign state. What is more surprising, and much newer, is that the notion of an American empire has suddenly become a live debate inside the US. And not just among Europhile liberals either, but across the range -- from left to right.

Today a liberal dissenter such as Gore Vidal, who called his most recent collection of essays on the US *The Last Empire*, finds an ally in the likes of conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer. Earlier this year Krauthammer told *The New York Times*: "People are coming out of the closet on the word 'empire'."

George W Bush's defense budget will soon be bigger than that of the next nine countries put together. (AP)

He argued that Americans should admit the truth and face up to their responsibilities as the undisputed masters of the world. And it wasn't any old empire he had in mind. "The fact is, no country has been as dominant culturally, economically, technologically and militarily in the history of the world since the Roman empire."

Accelerated by the post-9/11 debate on the US's role in the world, the idea of the US as a 21st-century Rome is gaining a foothold in the country's consciousness. The *New York Review of Books* illustrated a recent piece on US might with a drawing of George W Bush togged up as a Roman centurion, complete with shield and spears. Tom Wolfe has written that the US of today is "now the mightiest power on Earth, as omnipotent as ... Rome under Julius Caesar".

But is the comparison apt? Are the Americans the new Romans? In making a documentary film on the subject over the past few months, I put that question to a group of people uniquely qualified to know. Not experts on US defence strategy or American foreign policy, but Britain's leading historians of the ancient world.

They know Rome intimately -- and, without exception, they are struck by the similarities between the empire of now and the imperium of then.

The most obvious is overwhelming military strength. Rome was the superpower of its day, boasting an army with the best training, biggest budgets and finest equipment the world had ever seen. No one else came close. The US is just as dominant -- its defense budget will soon be bigger than the military spending of the next nine countries put together. Throw in the country' s global technological lead, and the US emerges as a power without rival.

There is a big difference, of course. Apart from the odd Puerto Rico or Guam, the US does not have formal colonies, the way the Romans always did. But that difference between ancient Rome and modern Washington may be less significant than it looks. After all, the US has done plenty of conquering and colonising: it' s just that we don' t see it that way. For some historians, the founding of the US and its 19th-century push westward were no less an exercise in empire-building than Rome' s drive to take charge of the Mediterranean. While Julius Caesar took on the Gauls -- bragging that he had slaughtered a million of them -- the American pioneers battled the Cherokee, the Iroquois and the Sioux. "From the time the first settlers arrived in Virginia from England and started moving westward, this was an imperial nation, a conquering nation," according to Paul Kennedy, author of *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers.*

More to the point, the US has military bases, or base rights, in some 40 countries across the world -- giving it the same global muscle it would enjoy if it ruled those countries directly. According to Chalmers Johnson, author of *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*, these US military bases, numbering into the hundreds around the world, are today' s version of the imperial colonies of old. Washington may refer to them as "forward deployment", says Johnson, but colonies are what they are. On this definition, there is almost no place outside the US' s reach. Pentagon figures show that there is a US military presence in 132 of the 190 member states of the United Nations.

So the US may be more Roman than we realize, with garrisons in every corner of the globe. But there the similarities only begin. For the US' s entire approach to empire looks quintessentially Roman. It' s as if the Romans bequeathed a blueprint for how imperial business should be done -- and today' s Americans are following it religiously.

Lesson one in the Roman handbook for imperial success would be a realization that it is not enough to have great military strength: the rest of the world must know that strength -- and fear it too. The Romans used the propaganda technique of their time -- gladiatorial games in the Colosseum -- to show the world how hard they were. Today 24-hour news coverage of US military operations -- including video footage of smart bombs scoring direct hits -- or Hollywood shoot-' em-ups at the multiplex serve the same function. Both tell the world: this empire is too tough to beat.

The US has learned a second lesson from Rome, realizing the centrality of technology. For the Romans, it was those famously straight roads, enabling the empire to move troops or supplies at awesome speeds. It was a perfect example of how one imperial strength tends to feed another: an innovation in engineering, originally designed for military use, went on to boost Rome commercially. Today those highways find their counterpart in the information superhighway: the Internet also began as a military tool, devised by the US Defense Department, and now stands at the heart of American commerce. In the process, it is making English the Latin of its day. The US is proving what the Romans already knew: that once an empire is a world leader in one sphere, it soon dominates in every other.

But it is not just specific tips that the US seems to have picked up from its ancient forebears. Rather, it is the fundamental approach to empire that echoes so loudly. Rome understood that, if it is to last, a world power needs to practice both hard imperialism, the business of winning wars and invading lands, and soft imperialism, the cultural and political tricks that work not to win power but to keep it.

So Rome' s greatest conquests came not at the end of a spear, but through its power to seduce conquered peoples. As Tacitus observed in Britain, the natives seemed to like togas, baths and central heating -- never realizing that these were the symbols of their "enslavement". Today the US offers the people of the world a coherent cultural package. It' s not togas or gladiatorial games today, but Starbucks, Coca-Cola, McDonald' s and Disney, all paid for in the contemporary equivalent of Roman coinage, the global hard currency of the 21st century: the dollar.

When the process works, you don' t even have to resort to direct force; it is possible to rule by remote control, using friendly client states. This is a favorite technique for the contemporary US -- no need for colonies when you have the Shah in Iran or Augusto Pinochet in Chile to do the job for you -- but the Romans got there first. They ruled by proxy whenever they could.

One of the most loyal of client kings was Togidubnus who ruled in the southern England of the first century AD. Historians believe he was a high-born Briton educated in Rome, brought back to Fishbourne and installed as a pro-Roman puppet. Just as Washington' s elite private schools are full of the "pro-Western" Arab kings, South American presidents

or African leaders of the future, so Rome took in the heirs of the conquered nations' top families, preparing them for lives as rulers in Rome' s interest.

Just as Hosni Mubarak and Pervez Musharraf have kept the lid on anti-American feeling in Egypt and Pakistan, Togidubnus kept Britons under him in line nearly two millennia ago.

Not that it always worked. Rebellions against the empire were a permanent fixture, with barbarians constantly pressing at the borders. Some accounts suggest that the rebels were not always fundamentally anti-Roman; they merely wanted to share in the privileges of Roman life. If that has a familiar ring, consider this: several of the enemies who rose up against Rome are thought to have been men previously nurtured by the empire to serve as pliant allies. Need one mention former US protege Saddam Hussein or one-time CIA trainee Osama bin Laden?

Rome even had its own 9/11 moment. In the 80s BC, Hellenistic King Mithridates called on his followers to kill all Roman citizens in their midst, naming a specific day for the slaughter. They heeded the call -- and killed 80 000 Romans in local communities across Greece. "The Romans were incredibly shocked by this," says ancient historian Jeremy Paterson of Newcastle University. "It' s a little bit like the statements in so many of the American newspapers since September 11: ' Why are we hated so much?' "

Internally, too, today' s US would strike many Romans as familiar terrain. The US' s mythologizing of its past -- its casting of founding fathers Washington and Jefferson as heroic titans, its folk-tale rendering of the Boston Tea Party and the war of independence -- is very Roman.

And the US shares Rome' s conviction that it is on a mission sanctioned from on high. Augustus declared himself the son of a god, raising a statue to his adoptive father Julius Caesar on a podium alongside Mars and Venus. The US dollar bill bears the words "In God we trust" and US politicians always like to end their speeches with "God bless America."

Even that most modern American trait, its ethnic diversity, would make the Romans feel comfortable. Their society was remarkably diverse, taking in people from all over the world -- and even promising new immigrants the chance to rise to the very top. While the US is yet to have a non-white president, Rome boasted an emperor from North Africa, Septimius Severus. According to classicist Emma Dench, Rome had its own version of the US' s "hyphenated" identities. Like the Italian-Americans or Irish-Americans of today, Rome' s citizens were allowed a "cognomen" -- an extra name to convey their Greek-Roman or British-Roman heritage: Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus.

There are large differences between the two empires, of course -- starting with self-image. Romans reveled in their status as masters of the known world, but few Americans would be as ready to brag of their own imperialism. Indeed, most would deny it. But that may come down to the US' s founding myth. For the US was established as a rebellion against empire, in the name of freedom and self-government. Raised to see themselves as a rebel nation and plucky underdog, they can' t quite accept their current role as master.

One last factor scares Americans from making a parallel between themselves and Rome: that empire declined and fell. The historians say this happens to all empires; they are dynamic entities that follow a common path, from beginning to middle to end.

"What the US will need to consider in the next 10 or 15 years," says Cambridge classicist Christopher Kelly, "is what is the optimum size for a non-territorial empire, how interventionist will it be outside its borders, what degree of control will it wish to exercise, how directly, how much through local elites? These were all questions which pressed upon the Roman empire."

Anti-Americans like to believe that an operation in Iraq might be proof that the US is succumbing to the temptation that ate away at Rome: overstretch. But it' s just as possible that the US is merely moving into what was the second phase of Rome' s imperial history, when it grew frustrated with indirect rule through allies and decided to do the job itself. Which is it? Is the US at the end of its imperial journey, or on the brink of its most ambitious voyage? Only the historians of the future can tell us that.
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Letters to Prole Manifesto etc...

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I have seen your magazine in the most interesting places. On the Internet, on the subway, in somebody' s bathroom your stuff really gets around! Good work!

A. Lassiter
Pasadena, CA

The use of our troops in an undeclared war on a sovereign nation cannot be justified. Bosnia, Afganistan, Iraq. Where next?

L. Kincade
Washington, DC

PM responds: Our young men and women are being used as pawns in a game of global supremacy. The Iraqis do want the US there. Did we learn anything from the Vietnam War?

I' ve been getting very close to my best friend for a while now. I know he already has a girlfriend, but I still want to be with him. Should I tell him how I feel?

M. Gray
Atlanta, GA

PM responds: I am so tired of these types of questions. Well, you already have this special connection, because the both of you have been such good friends. Friendship is based on trust. If you really trust him with your feelings, tell him. Continue to be open and honest with each other. You never know, he might break up with her, but you will still be there.

I love *Dawgy Dawg Manifesto*. I am in the process of finding special places to read your zine. The whole package from front to back is all wholly pure hoot, no negative projections.

Mr. Psuedonym
IA

Letters, Comments Advice, etc. to the Prole Manifesto

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PM responds Thank you for reading. I think.

I love your magazine. You do chicken right. I laughed, I cried, I called my lawyer. I am enjoying NYC strangely and truly. I' ll probably get hit by a truck or deadly virus to make up for my recent good fortune: I' ve found this attractive, amazing woman, which has changed my life. Where' s that truck? Smell that virus?

J. J. Michaels
NYC, New York

PM responds. If you can survive in New York, you can survive anywhere.

A friend of mine gave me a copy of *Dawgy Dawg Manifesto* and I was knocked over by the coolness of the contents. Keep up the good work.

Bob(by) K.
Orlando, FL

Where can I get a printedcopy of your magazine? I like the PDF version, nut it' s just not the same as paper.

H.B. Olafson
Oslo, Norway

PM responds: Here is the real deal. The online PDF version is provided free of charge. It is free to distribute, you can print out as many copies as you want. There is no copyright. (Despite the notice.) Now, printing costs money, along with shipping and handling. If you want print copies, send us the money. Otherwise, shut up! This is a volunteer-run magazine, and none of us gets paid. All cash goes directly into printing the magazines, mailing them, transportation, junk food, parties and maintaining a modest office. Our subscribers and sustainers are our primary support system. Subscription inquiries can be made by emailing fsims2002@yahoo.com for more info. Please provide complete address, including zip code.

I hate that fucker George W. Bush and Dickhead Cheney. I also hate the fucking Condomlezza Rice and fucking Colon Powell. They must go! The Bush Administration' s Minister of Peace, Donald Rumsfeld is a fucking Nazi. Fuck them all1

H. Bey-Rabb
Salt Lake City, UT

Sword of Truth

Uncle Sam has his big nose in the affairs of other countries. And he wonders why foreign countries dislike him so much.

The answer is simple: it' s because they are fed up with his improper plans. Actually, Uncle Sam knows but he doesn' t want the eyes and ears of his American tax-paying peasants to know the truth.

K.E. Brown
Fairbanks, AL

Dubya the Bully

A Canadian official called President Bush a "moron." My dictionary says a moron is an adult without the ability to think more logically than an eight or 10 year old.

Bush did get through Yale. So, chances are that the term is not quite correct.

The term"back-alley thug would more describe the way "Dubya" talks and threatens.

W. Black
Auburn, WA

PM responds: I differ somewhat with your analysis of "President" Bush's behavior. He does act like an immature eight or ten-year old child.

His famous quote,"If you're not with us, you're against us." That sounds a lot like how most children that age perceive the world. And George W. is known to have his childish tantrums.

The fact that his wife taught elementary school should tell you something. The only reason he barely made through Yale is because of his rich father, who just happens to be an alumnus of Yale.

The "back-alley Texas thug" thing is something agree with you 100% on.

The U.S. Empire

Years ago it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire.

Today, it can be said: the sun never sets on the U.S. Military.

Let' s bring them home.

R.J. Weiner
Oshkosh, WS

Drums of War

Beware the leader who bangs the drums of war in order to whip the citizenry into a patriotic fervor for patriotism indeed indeed is a double-edged sword, it both emboldens the blood just as it narrows the mind, and when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind is closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the right of the citizenry.

Rather the citizenry infused with her and blinded by patriotism will offer up all their rights and gladly so.

F. Knutson
Park Rapids, Minnesota

Get What They Deserve

I believe that most Americans are too apathetic and lazy to take the time to write, call or email Congress and the White House on issues of national importance.

Therefore they get what they deserve when they surrender the right they have to voice their opinion. Writing until election time is too late to get things changed.

A republic works only when the voters take an active part to get their representatives in Washington to respond to the people.

W. Lowe, Jr.
Callahan, FL

PM responds: Though you may be right in your contention that the majority of Americans do not write or call their elected officials, there are tens of thousands who regulary voice their opinions to Congress and the White House. The question is, does your voice actually count?

No! The only voice that the ruling class listens to is their peers. The people that run the corporations and the secret societies of rich and powerful families.

The U.S. Constitution states that there is supposed to be a government of "checks and balances" of powers embodied in the Legislative Executive and Judiciary branches of government. Yet, we all know this is not the case. It is an imbalance of checks from the powerful plutocracy (rich class) directly to these branches of government. As the old saying goes, "Those who have the money have the power." And yes,"Money does make the count the votes."

We the people must rise up and challenge the power structure on our terms, not theirs. This is a government of the people, by the people for the people." Not a government of the military-industrial, corporate, prison complex. Rise up! Organize, Educate!, Agitate!, Resist!

We' ve Been Had

The war is on and I wonder whether President Bush and his advisors fully understand what they have gotten this country into. Countries in the Middle East are on the verge of collapse, and only the heavy-handed response of the United States' puppet leaders there will be able to quell the growing unrest.

How many will have to die around the world before Americans realize they cannot continue to support the plutocratic elite?

Wake up America. We' ve been had. It' s our sons who are dying in this war, not the kids of presidents and congressmen.

F. Banner
Silver Spring, MD

PM responds: I say again, Wake up America! This New American Empire will crumble very soon. Whose side are you on. Standing with the status quo is not a sensible idea right now. Get up off your ass and assert your rights! Educate!, Agitate!, Organize! Rise up!

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Comrads, We really appreciate all the positive feedback we' ve received on the recent issues. However, we are lacking funds to produce this magazine. As you know, this is a volunteer-run magazine, and none of us gets paid. All cash goes directly into printing the magazines, mailing them, and maintaining a modest office. Our subscribers and sustainers are our primary support system. Those of you who are rich, please consider give us a grant to foster our goal of having an actual printed magazine! Even in this Information Age, electronic files are not taken seriously unless there is an actual, saddle-stitched, printed version. Not to mention an actual office and Post Office Box.

To those who have figured it out, Peoples Broadcasting Collective is a one person show produced by Francwa Sims. To contact me email me at: fsims2002@yahoo.com. The material used in this publication was compiled from sources online and the mainstream and alternative/independent media. There is no intention to violate any copyrights. Proper credit was given to to the authors and sources. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Francwa Sims or Peoples Broadcasting Collective Network.

I Francwa Sims, am a natural-born, native citizen of the United States and I hereby assert my rights under the First Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights, the Constitution of the United States and the Articles 18-20 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I do not recognize the Patriot Act or any other laws that contradict the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Bill of Rights.

Independent Media is not just an idea. It' s a movement. If you are reading this zine, please send me an email. I need to know that if I' m not wasting my time or not. I do accept constructive criticism, but no hate letters, threats or spam of any kind.

Anyone who wants to contribute to this zine, please send your true-life adventures, fables, theories, and suggestions for noncompliance, civil disobedience, defiance, non-consent, refusal, mutiny, etc. Reviews & reports: 800 words or less. Feature articles: 1600-3200 words.

"*To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.*" --**Theodore Roosevelt, 1918**

"*We need a government as good as the people it serves.*" **-- Jimmy Carter**

"Have you ever been an officer or a member or made a contribution to an organization dedicated to the violent overthrow of the United States Government and which engages in illegal activities to that end, knowing that the organization engages in such activities with the specific intent to further such activities?"

No.

"Have you ever knowingly engaged in any acts or activities designed to overthrow the United States Government by force?"

No.

Oh, and God Bless America! Drop Bush Not Bombs! No Blood for Oil! Jobs not Bombs! No More Vote Fraud! Say No to the USA Patriot Act! Impeach Cheney!

Prole Manifesto

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